



FISHING AND MARINE DEBRIS

What Is Marine Debris?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration defines marine debris as any man-made object discarded, disposed of or abandoned that enters the coastal or marine environment. Debris can include, but is not limited to, food wrappers, grocery and trash bags, beverage bottles and cans, cigarette filters, fishing line, nets and gear.



Where Does It Come From?

All marine debris shares a common origin – people. In fact, people's mishandling of waste materials and other items constitutes the bulk of the marine debris problem.

What Are the Impacts?

Discarded or abandoned fishing gear and other forms of debris can entangle, maim and cause many wildlife species to drown. Abandoned nets, plastic tarps, fishing gear and other debris can smother and crush sensitive ecosystems, many of which are essential fish habitat.

Fishing gear and other trash can also wrap around boat propellers and clog seawater intakes, causing costly engine damage and becoming a safety hazard.



What You Can Do To Prevent Marine Debris

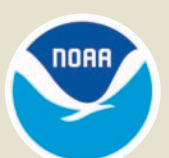
- Bring ALL of your trash back to shore for proper disposal in trash cans or recycling bins, including all pieces of fishing line and other fishing gear. Visit www.berkley-fishing.com/about_conservation.php#brp or [www://floridaconservation.org/mrrp/index.asp](http://www.floridaconservation.org/mrrp/index.asp) for information on monofilament recycling programs.
- Properly stow and secure waste material on your boat so that it won't be blown or washed overboard.



FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- Remember that it is illegal to dispose of any plastic in all navigable waters of the United States and anywhere at sea.
- Encourage your tackle shops, docks, marinas, fishing piers and boat ramps to provide adequate trash cans and recycling bins for used line and other trash.
- Serve as an example to others. Get involved in cleanups in your area and encourage others to help keep the oceans free of debris.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



www.marinedebris.noaa.gov